(ख) से (घ) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को गरीब लोगों पर केन्द्रित करते हुए सुप्रवाही बनाने पर सरकार विचार कर रही है और इस संबंध में तफसील तैयार की जा रही है।

Labour Force in India

133. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of the organised and unorganised labour force in India as on the 1st June, 1996, all categories;

(b) what are its estimates by the end of the Eighth Plan; and

(c) the reason for labour force not growing as per expectations during the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Figures of organised and unorganised labour force in India as on 1st June, 1996 are not available, By the end of the Eighth Five year Plan total employment is envisaged as 344.7 million.

(c) Estimate of total employment in the country is made on the basis of the quinquennial surveys conducted by the N.S.S.O. The latest such survey conducted relates to the period 1993-94 and the one prior to this relates to 1987-88. While the estimates based on 1987-88 survey are available, those based on the 1993-94 survey are not yet available. It will be possible to assess the performance of the economy on the employment front during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94 only when the latter estimates are available.

चीनी उद्योग पर लाइसेंस समाप्त किया जाना

134. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:** क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार चीनी उद्योग पर लाइसेंस समाप्त करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ग) लाइसेंस-मुक्त करने का मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है निर्णय के लिए कोई निर्धारित समय सीमा बताना संभव नहीं है।

Withdrawal of Levy on Sugar

135. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to withdraw levy on sugar and allow sugar mill owners to sell their entire stock in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to discontinue the supply of sugar through Public Distribution System; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to procure sugar to maintain the supply through public distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Expert Committee on Small Scale Enterprises

136. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted an Expert Committee on Small Scale Enterprises;

(b) if so, whether Government have recently asked the Committee to give their recommendations on small scale Industries; and

(c) if so, what other steps Government propose to take to promote small scale Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted an Expert Committee on small Enterprises headed by Shri Abid Hussain (former Member, Planning Commission) on the 29th December, 1995. As per the terms of reference of the Committee, it will do an intensive study of the existing policies pertaining to the small scale sector and will submit its recommendations thereafter.

(c) The Government have taken various steps to promote the small scale sector such as designing the programmes of product reservation, excise concession, priority sector lending etc. The State Governments also give capital subsidy, sales tax exemption/deferment, power subsidy etc.

The Government is also taking some new measures for the small scale sector like providing infrastructural support in integrated manner, adequate credit, enhanced technology support for modernisation and technology upgradation, enhancement of entrepreneurship development programme by involving voluntary agencies and strengthening entrepreneruship development Institutes, special employment generation programmes by way of self-employment etc.

Procurement of Wheat, Rice and Other Foodgrains

137. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has not been able to procure wheat and rice even to the extent it did last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of procurement made this year and in the last three years itemwise;

(d) whether the production of Kharif crops has been less in 1995 than the previous years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurement of wheat and rice declined mainly due to the following factors:—

(i) lesser arrivals of wheat and paddy in the market;

(ii) purchase of 10% of the market arrivals of wheat by the trade as compared with only 6% in the previous season;

(iii) Rains at the time of ripening of wheat in Punjab/Haryana resulted in lower wheat production;

(iv) Grant of exemption to non-basmati fine and superfine rice meant for export from levy obligation in view of comfortable level of stocks of rice in the Central Pool;

(v) Suspension of levy on rice in Punjab into avoid excessive accumulation of stocks of rice in the State.

(c) The details of procurment of wheat and rice during the current rabi/kharif marketing season and during the last three marketing seasons are given in the Statement attached. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) There is a marginal shortfall expected in the production of Kharif foodgrains during 1995-96 marketing season as compared to previous year.

Statement

Total Procurement of Wheat and Rice for the current year and the last three years

Procurement of Wheat

Rabi Marketing Season	(Fig. in Lakh Mts)
1993-94	128.35
1994-95	118.68
1995-96	123.26
1996-97 (AS ON 1.7.96)	81.30